Front cover: Join us at the Stony Island Arts Bank, 6760 S. Stony Island, Chicago, for the Skyline Social on Saturday, September 10. See page 8 for more information. (credit: Tom Harris (C) Hedrich Blessing, Courtesy of Rebuild Foundation)

TOWARD 50 – LANDMARKS ILLINOIS’ NEW STRATEGIC PLAN
PEOPLE SAVING PLACES

STATEWIDE NEWS
IN THE FIELD

PEOPLE
MEET GREG KOOS

EVENTS
PRESERVATION SNAPSHOTs

CONTRIBUTIONS
THANK YOU

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Since its founding, Landmarks Illinois has been guided by the governing contribution of our volunteer Board of Directors. Board members support the organization in many ways including donating their intellectual, professional and financial capital to help Landmarks Illinois grow. We welcome the following six new board members elected at our June 21 Annual Meeting and look forward to their leadership over the next six years. For more information on Landmarks Illinois’ Board of Directors, visit us at www.Landmarks.org.

row 1: Robert C. Lee, Judi R. Male, Adam Pressman
row 2: Wes Shepherd, J.J. Smith, Anne-Marie St. Germaine

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended June 30, 2016  (In 000’s)

OPERATING REVENUES:
Development & Fund Raising 1,054,000
Advocacy 252,000
Easement Program 6,000
Memberships 1,000
Grants Programs 6,000
Endowments & Donated Services 0
Total Revenue 1,588,000

OPERATING EXPENSES:
Development & Fund Raising 377,000
Advocacy 476,000
Easement Program 91,000
Memberships 82,000
Grants Programs 60,000
Management (see note below) 335,000
Total Operating Expenses 1,241,000

Net Operating Increase 167,000
Gain/(Loss) on Investment Portfolio -136,000
Change in Net Assets 31,000
Beginning Net Assets 7,987,000
Ending Net Assets 8,018,000

Note: Management includes expenses not allocated to programs including a portion of meeting expenses, accounting, information technology and staff expenses.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
William W. Tippens  Chairman
Mark G. Henning  Vice Chairman & General Counsel
Bonnie McDonald  President
Frieda Ireland, CPA  Treasurer
Rhonda C. Thomas  Secretary
Joseph Antonovitch, AIA
Inga Carus
Tim Frens, CPA
Art Glass
Krista Gnatt
Jeffrey Goulette, AIA
Tiffany Hamel Johnson
Michael Rachlis
Sandra Rand
Colleen Reitan
Robin Schabes
Martin V. Sinclair, Jr.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Andy Ahitow
Gary Anderson, AIA
Lee Brown, FAICP
Joshua Freedland, AIA
Jacob Goldberg
Graham C. Grady
Robert C. Lee
Judi R. Male
Adam Pressman
Janet Rotner
Wes Shepherd
J. J. Smith
Anna-Marie St. Germaine
Martin C. Tangora, Ph.D.*
John J. Tully
Anne B. Voshel
*Life Director

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
Richard Miller

STAFF
Bonnie McDonald  President
Frank Butterfield  Director of Springfield Office
Lisa DiChiera  Director of Advocacy
Amy Ege  Director of Development and Engagement
Suzanne Germann  Director of Grants and Easements
Marija D. Rich  Membership Manager
Tiffanie Williams  Events Manager
Since October we have been busy working on a new Strategic Plan in order to set a course for the next five years as we head towards Landmarks Illinois’ 50th anniversary in 2021. With the help of the Executive Service Corps as facilitator, we kicked off the planning process with a board and staff retreat that yielded long lists of potential goals—communication, advocacy, easements, fundraising—everything came under the microscope of our multi-talented board and staff members.

Then, this spring, we hit the road to engage more of our stakeholders. We want to ensure that Landmarks Illinois is providing the full range of services and tools to inspire preservation statewide.

Over the course of two months Bonnie McDonald, Frank Butterfield, Lisa DiChiera and I held eight meetings around the state, engaging 160 local preservationists to tell us how Landmarks Illinois can help.

Once all of the data from the statewide meetings was crunched it was time to get to work, melding the work of the board and staff with the comments from our stakeholders. What you see in this newsletter is the result of this lengthy and very valuable process to move preservation forward in Illinois.

We’re proud that people across the state contributed almost 700 hours toward our new Strategic Plan. Take a look at the next page to see what we will accomplish in the next five years with your help.

Despite the size of our state and the many different types of communities that can be found here, we have learned that we all have much more in common as preservationists than we have differences. Again and again, we heard the same feedback about what local preservationists need to be successful: incentives, education, training, advocacy resources, engagement and inclusiveness strategies, and database and communication tools.

While regional differences make our day-to-day work much more interesting, we know that Landmarks Illinois will be helping people everywhere save the places that give their communities meaning and character if we stick to the common areas of need identified in the plan.

I hope that you will join the staff in supporting the initiatives that will help them to achieve these goals—we will all be working together to make our communities better places to live and work. Progress really does start right outside your door.

TOWARD 50 – LANDMARKS ILLINOIS’ NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

PEOPLE SAVING PLACES

by JEAN FOLLET Chair, Strategic Planning Working Group

OUR VISION:

People value places of the past as vital to the future.

tell us how Landmarks Illinois can help. From our audience of advocates, historic preservation commissioners, Main Street staff, preservation professionals and public officials we heard about successes and challenges. We came away with lengthy lists of the ways people thought we could help them in their work to save the places that matter to their community.

We heard gratitude for all the work that Landmarks Illinois is doing, but we also got a clear picture of how much more there is to be done.

Each of these meetings producing a long list of potential strategies from which we kicked off the planning process with a board and staff retreat that yielded long lists of potential goals—communication, advocacy, easements, fundraising—everything came under the microscope of our multi-talented board and staff members.

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Every year, Landmarks Illinois engages an increasing number of communities throughout Illinois in preservation-related efforts. This map illustrates the over 100 places where Landmarks Illinois has made site visits, given assistance, listed Most Endangered properties, awarded grants, and presented preservation grants. This map shows the state’s most endangered properties and preservation efforts. The map is divided by region, with each region highlighting different preservation efforts, such as site visits, preservation grants, and preservation awards. The map also includes an extensive list of communities throughout Illinois, including Chicago, suburban, and statewide areas, highlighting the diversity of preservation efforts across the state.

OLD COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL
A redevelopment plan for Old Cook County Hospital was approved in May by the Cook County Board, which will allow MB Real Estate Services to invest $600 million in the historic building and reuse it for hotel, apartments and retail. The developer will pay $2 million in annual rent to the County under a 99-year lease and use federal historic tax credits to help finance the rehabilitation. LI has advocated for the preservation of the building for 18 years, placing it on the statewide endangered list in 2001 and in three additional years. LI produced a reuse study in 2003 and over multiple years testified before the County Board to stave off demolition. In 2014, LI prepared another reuse plan as part of a County-sponsored charrette. LI thanks Cook County Board President Preckwinkle for her support of this important landmark.

As reported in The Arch in February 2015, LI Skyline Council member Chris Enck purchased and moved the Prairie-style Irving House (John Van Bergen, 1928) from Wilmette to Evanston to save it from demolition by a developer. From October 2014 until March 2015 it rested on the parking lot of a yet-to-be-opened Whole Foods on Green Bay Rd., while site preparation was completed for its new location at 2771 Crawford Ave. Since its relocation, Enck added a full basement, increasing the home’s size to nearly 3,000 sq. ft., upgraded bathrooms and the kitchen and replaced the mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems. Enck plans to seek landmark designation from the City of Evanston, which would enable a purchaser to utilize the Property Tax Assessment Freeze for Historic Residences incentive. For information about purchasing or renting the home, contact Lisa DiChiera at DiChieraL@LPCI.org.

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ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
In March, the Illinois Historic Preservation Legislative Caucus welcomed new co-chair Rep. Steve Anderson of Geneva, joining Sen. Pam Althoff of Crystal Lake, Sen. Andy Manar of the Macoupin County region, and Rep. Jerry Costello of the Randolph County region. Landmarks Illinois works with the caucus to advance preservation policy and legislation — most recently the focus has been the need to extend the River Edge Redevelopment Zone Historic Tax Credit program. Check the list of current Illinois Historic Preservation Caucus members on Landmarks Illinois website (Landmarks.org) to confirm the participation of your legislators, or to encourage them to join. If they have joined, please thank them for their support of preservation in Illinois.


(photo credit: Lisa DiChiera, Landmarks Illinois)

(photo credit: Chris Enck)
Support for Statewide Advocacy

Jean Follett and Doug Thompson of Wheaton recently made the first major gift commitment to Landmarks Illinois under a new funding initiative—a tremendous $91,000 to support its Springfield Office, which provides preservation advocacy to areas outside of Chicagoland. The commitment spans three years and is also comprised of significant matching funds from the Follett Corporation.

As a statewide organization, it was critical to gather feedback from people throughout Illinois to inform our new five-year strategic plan, but we were limited in what we could accomplish within our short window of time. Enter Jean Follett, a long-time LI leader, who volunteered to facilitate eight strategic planning sessions throughout the state this spring. There, people have to help save or reuse an important historic place.

Shortly after the planning sessions ended, Jean and Doug made the momentous decision to pledge the first-ever major gift to LI’s statewide advocacy program, kicking off a new funding initiative that, with additional gifts, will enable us to add another field office within the next five years and double our statewide impact.

Jean Follett, an historic preservation consultant, went off the Board of Directors in June after serving three consecutive two-year terms and chairing the Preservation Issues Committee and Strategic Planning Working Group. Previously, she served in multiple staff positions at LI including Interim President and Strategic Planning Working Group. Jean Follett is comprised of significant matching funds to support its Springfield Office, and a Ph.D. in American and New England studies from Boston University, as well as a long-time passion for historic preservation. Jean was and continues to be a tremendous resource for Landmarks Illinois.

Although Jean has “retired” for now, she will remain on the Preservation Issues Committee and has joined the new Emeritus Board to continue her steadfast support of our organization and its mission-driven work to help people save places.

When they are not traveling to historic sites the world over, or working on yet another fixer-upper, Jean and Doug enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Jean Follett with Ophelia Niemann owner of Manske-Niemann Farm, Litchfield, listed on LI’s 2010 Most Endangered Historic Places (credit: Frank Butterfield, Landmarks Illinois)

The largest challenge was the difficulty in developing exhibits there. One of the design challenges was how to create an effective exhibit in a room that is smaller than a typical gallery space. To make a building built in the American Renaissance style and turn it into a museum, we had to develop new roles of thumb. But the building also forced us to raise our production values. Entering that building has a ‘wow’ factor, and we had to make sure our exhibits had just as much ‘wow’ as the building.

What was your approach in connecting people to local history? My management tagline was “transform the museum from being about something to being for somebody,” a concept I heard from the Smithsonian’s Stephen Well. We’re not about the stuff itself, we’re about how the stuff tells us about our community. Local history museums and preservation are one of the few remaining cultural activities that say to us that where we live is important.

How has being located within the historic McLean County Courthouse changed the museum? Without our rehabilitation of the historic courthouse – without preservation – we would probably still be a small museum with a staff of three or four doing little exhibits. Being in a landmark building gave us strength and identity within the community. Previously considered one of the best kept secrets in town, our move into a historic building got the museum out in front of the public in a dramatic way.

In March 2016, Greg Koos retired as executive director of the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington. During his 38 years with the museum, Koos spearheaded several preservation projects and facilitated the move of the museum in 1988 into the historic McLean County Courthouse. Koos announced his retirement after the completion of a capital campaign that raised over $3 million to improve exhibits, increase educational programs, and endow a new staff position.

In June, Caron and Alan Lacy graciously opened their historic Lake Forest home to LI’s Bagatelle Estate. The walled estate was designed by Edward Bennett, who co-authored the Plan of Chicago and designed Buckingham Fountain. It encompasses two acres near the center of town. Originally a summer home, the main house and coach house were built in 1916 in the style of a French country house. The Lacies have protected the property through the donation of a preservation easement. The breathtaking estate is currently available for purchase. The listing can be found through Koenig Rubloff in Lake Forest or contact Mona Hellinga: mhellinga@KoenigRubloff.com.

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Celebrate the rehabilitation and reuse of the 1923 Stony Island Trust & Savings Bank at the 95th Annual Skyline Social hosted by UI's Skyline Council. After 30 years of vacancy and near demolition (li: ChicagoWatch List 2005-07), the building was bought by artists and 2014 Legendary Landmark honoree Theaster Gates and rehabilitated through his non-profit Rebuild Foundation. The building reopened in October 2015 as the Stony Island Arts Bank, a multi-purpose space for the arts, counter-clockwise from left: 1950 N. State Parkway, Chicago (credit: Tom Harris; Hedrich Blessing), Glessner House Museum (credit: Glessner House Museum); Glasner Speaker: Zac Bleicher

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17
EDGAR MILLER LEGACY PROJECT
Speaker: Zac Bleicher
Cosponsor: AIA Chicago

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
THE FUTURE OF HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS
Speaker: William Ty, Glessner House Museum
Cosponsor: The Auditorium Theater

LOOK FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION AT WWW.LANDMARKS.ORG.

CONTRIBUTIONS
THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS
MARCH 20 THROUGH MAY 28, 2016

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
BENJAMIN MARSHALL, CHICAGO ARCHITECT
Speakers: Benjamin Marshall, The Office of Christopher T. Long

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
CITYSCAPE FALL 2016 SERIES
Speaker: Zac Bleicher

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
SKYLINE SOCIAL
9:00 TO 10:00 PM
STONY ISLAND ARTS BANK
6760 S. STONY ISLAND, CHICAGO

Celebrate the rehabilitation and reuse of the 1923 Stony Island Trust & Savings Bank at the 95th Annual Skyline Social hosted by UI's Skyline Council. After 30 years of vacancy and near demolition (li: ChicagoWatch List 2005-07), the building was bought by artists and 2014 Legendary Landmark honoree Theaster Gates and rehabilitated through his non-profit Rebuild Foundation. The building reopened in October 2015 as the Stony Island Arts Bank, a multi-purpose space for the arts, community, and events. Go to www.landmarks.org for more information and reservations.

Story Island Arts Bank, 6760 S. Stony Island, Chicago (credit: Tom Harris; Hedrich Blessing, Courtesy of Rebuild Foundation)
Hear the diverse stories behind this year’s award winners at this inspiring event. Each year, Landmarks Illinois and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation honor individuals, organizations, projects, and programs whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation. Join us for this celebration of Illinois’ heritage and historic treasures.

2015 Advocacy + ADA 25 Award
Laurent House, Rockford
(credit: Nels Akerland)